

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

August 28, 2014

Second Annual Day of Remembrance

Central Office

by Tammy Wallace

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Last September, MoDOT held the first Day of Remembrance ceremonies across the state, and set the third Thursday in September as an annual day to take time to honor the memories of our co-workers who have died in the line of duty.

This year, the ceremonies will be held on Sept. 18. The Central Office ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the Fallen Worker Memorial just west of the Central Office. At approximately 1:31 p.m., a moment of silence will be observed across the state to remember those who have fallen. Districts are also planning ceremonies on this day. You can contact your district customer relations division for details on local events.

Reliable records of fallen workers date back to 1946. Those records indicate we have lost 131 members of our MoDOT family. We have to assume that others also gave their lives in the earlier years of building our transportation system.

These annual ceremonies also give all of us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to safety, and never add another name to the memorial.

Another way we commemorate this day is by asking employees to wear orange clothing, orange lapel pin ribbons or any clothing with the MoDOT logo. Of course, if you are working on a job that requires personal protection equipment, that equipment needs to be worn as usual. This is another way we can recognize we are one team and remember those we have lost.

If you are not able to attend one of the ceremonies, and can do it safely, please take a moment on Sept. 18 at 1:31 p.m. to pause and to remember.

Raising Money for the 1033 Benevolent Fund

by Tammy Wallace



Commemorative t-shirt has the Ride for Remembrance logo on the front, and 'Ride to Honor and Remember' on the back listing the names of the 131 fallen workers.



Logo as it appears on the front of the shirt.

Ride for Remembrance

The St. Louis District is organizing a Ride for Remembrance to benefit the 1033 Benevolent Fund. The group will ride from St. Louis, traveling down Hwy 94, to participate in the Day of Remembrance ceremony held at the Central Office Fallen Worker Memorial on Sept. 18. The riders will first circle the Capitol drive before heading to the ceremony.

But you don't have to be a St. Louis district employee to contribute to the fund. Commemorative t-shirts are being sold to raise money and all MoDOT employees can purchase a t-shirt.

To order, send your:
Name and phone number
Location for return shipping (central office or district and your division or facility location)

Your tee-shirt size and purchase price
To: Tania Thomas, Executive Assistant, MoDOT St. Louis District
via interoffice mail or to 1590 Woodlake Drive, Chesterfield, MO 63017

Shirts cost \$15.00 for men's M-XL and women's S-L sizes
\$17 for men's and women's sizes 1XL -4XL
Order must be received by Sept. 5.

10th Annual Transportation Day Golf Tournament

The annual transportation day golf tournament to raise money for the 1033 Benevolent Fund has been scheduled for Sept. 15 at the Columbia Country Club.

The event organizer, Central District's Travis Koestner, thanks everyone for their continued support and said everyone is looking forward to a great day of golf for a great cause.

Funds raised during the event support the fallen worker's families for state highway, law

enforcement and fire fighters. We hope no one will need these funds in the future, but this resource has eased the burden on families providing immediate financial help. Law enforcement and fire fighters also hold annual golf days.

There are already 49 teams registered for morning and afternoon tee times (8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) but there are still a few spots remaining. If you want to play or get a team together contact Travis Koestner at 573-526-6998.



MoDOT Employees Get an Overview of Design-Build

by Patrick Wood

During the past two weeks, MoDOT employees had the opportunity to get an inside look into the Design-Build process. Statewide Design Build Coordinator Angela Fuerst and Customer Relations Coordinator Linda Wilson Horn presented an overview class and three classes of in-depth training on Design-Build to more than 140 employees from around the state.



Design Build Coordinator Angela Fuerst covers the basics with more than 140 employees around the state.

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger kicked off the presentation. Hassinger called Design-Build one of the tools in MoDOT’s toolbox that helps efficiency. By looking at the risk assessment of each project, Design-Build may not always be the right answer, but according to Hassinger it “captures the innovation of the industry and pushes it to do more.”

Hassinger went on to talk about the first discussion of Design-Build over 10 years ago. With projects that were too large and costly the idea of Design-Build came into play. The legislature approved pilot projects and the first three Design-Build projects were a success. This achievement resulted in the legislature giving authority for Design-Build to be used on a total of two percent of the number of projects per year.

Despite the failure of Amendment 7, Hassinger stressed the importance of learning about Design-Build and continuing to do these projects even on a smaller scale so it stays fresh in our minds and helps us to be more innovative.

Angela Fuerst and Linda Wilson Horn covered the basics of Design-Build, why and when it is used, the difference of Design-Build and Design-Bid-Build and the history of Design-Build projects. They also discussed the values of Design-Build, linking it to MoDOT’s value of being bold. Other Design-Build values included being goal-oriented, flexible, confidential and being an empowered team. The in-depth training also included discussions on how to write the contract documents, how to procure the contractor and how Design-Build contracts are administered.

MoDOT recently signed the contract on its eighth Design-Build project, the US 69 Fairfax Bridge in Kansas City. There are four other Design-Build projects currently under contract, including: I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge and Route 364 in the St. Louis District, I-70 Manchester Bridge in Kansas City, and US 60 in the Southwest District. Two more Design-Build projects are planned to start during the next year, including the reconstruction of three bridges on I-70 in Columbia and interchange improvements at I-44 and MO Route 141 in St. Louis.

For more information on Design-Build, contact Angela Fuerst at angela.fuerst@modot.mo.gov or call at 314-453-5056. You can also learn more by going to http://www.modot.org/business/consultant_resources/DesignBuildInformation.htm. Design-Build information and documents are also available in the Engineering Policy Guide.

CONNECT WITH YOUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

?

EAC

EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

“Success is falling
nine times and
getting up ten.”

~Jon Bon Jovi~

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

Improving Efficiency - Needing Employees' Help

by Joey Hinton

MoDOT employees throughout the organization use hundreds of various technology applications on a daily basis to enter information into those systems. A common concern voiced by those users is that employees are entering the same information in various locations, causing duplicated efforts and information. For example, reporting time spent on a project in the Time Reporting System and then entering the same or similar information into another database, such as the striping application or Faster.

To find a solution, a team has been formed to identify those areas where users are entering the same information multiple times. The goal of the team is to identify the duplicate entry situations, then prioritize the impact to the department and recommend solutions. We need employees help to do this.

The team has developed a quick survey. We ask all MoDOT employees to consider areas where duplicate entry may be taking place and take a few minutes to tell us about it. Since employee time is limited and valuable, the survey only takes about five minutes to complete. The information gathered will help the team identify areas where we can be more efficient.



Click on this link to take the survey – <http://sharepoint/sites/is/duplicateentry/Lists/Survey/NewForm.aspx> (link works for employees only).

The deadline is Sept. 5. You can complete the survey as many times as needed to share examples. All responses will be kept confidential.

Thank you for helping MoDOT to become a more efficient organization.

Vote Now for AASHTO's "Faces of Transportation" Photo Contest

by Tammy Wallace



Photos by MoDOT's ace photographer, Cathy Morrison, have been submitted to The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials annual "Faces of Transportation" photo contest. Seventy-eight photos have been submitted from across country, including seven from MoDOT.

This year's photos are being judged on three categories, Quality of Life/Community Development, Historic Projects, and Taking the Road Less Traveled. Each photograph represents the positive effects of transportation on individuals or communities.

To vote for MoDOT photos, go to - <http://facesoftransportation.org/>, click on "Vote Here" then scroll down to MO-001_2014 thru MO-007_2014 to see all seven of the MoDOT entries. You can vote once from each electronic device that you have (computer, iPad, smartphone, etc.), and you can vote for as many photos as you like each time.

Voting runs through Sept. 8. The photograph receiving the highest number of online votes will receive the People's Choice Award, and a \$500 cash prize will be awarded to the photographer.

The People's Choice Award winner and the recipient of this year's Faces of Transportation Grand Prize Award will be announced on Sept. 29.

Left, one of the 'Faces of Transportation' entrants - Rocky Balfour, motorist assistant operator, helps change a tire on Interstate - 29/35 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Tracker Discussion Highlights MoDOT's Performance

by Holly Dentner

District and division employees gathered in Jefferson City on Aug. 21 for the quarterly meeting to discuss the latest edition of Tracker.

At the beginning of the meeting, MoDOT Director Dave Nichols thanked everyone for their work to help educate Missourians about the project list for Constitutional Amendment 7. He told the group he understood how difficult it was to develop the list in such a short time frame, and even though voters rejected the amendment, the momentum is still there for transportation funding.

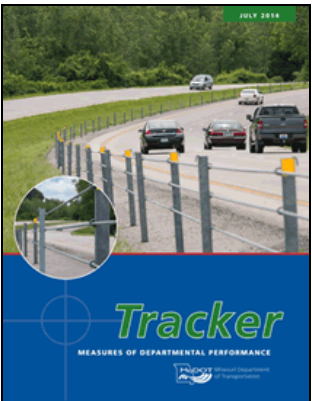
While legislators and our transportation partners work on a funding solution, Nichols encouraged all employees to focus on the task at hand.

"I ask you to remember our core business functions," he said. "We must focus on safety, taking care of what we have and providing outstanding customer service."

Nichols spent additional time talking about safety. With the recent tragic death of a contractor in the Kansas City region, Nichols reinforced the message that making safety a daily effort is critical.

"Do whatever you have to do to prevent an injury or a dangerous situation," he said. "Whether it's a toolbox chat or equipment pre-check – make the commitment to talk about safety every single day."

While it might be 99 degrees outside now, prep for winter weather is a year-round concern for MoDOT. At last week's meeting, Maintenance Liaison Engineer Tim Chojnacki reported some difficulty for salt suppliers to meet customer needs this year, although MoDOT is close to having its supply for the start of the season. Not surprisingly, the cost of salt has increased. Last year it was \$60 a ton, and this year it's \$80 per ton.



The Aug. 21 Tracker meeting was also a special milestone for one particular employee, whose work was acknowledged during the meeting. Customer

Relations Director Mara Campbell has accepted a position outside the department, and the group took a few moments to thank her for her role in making MoDOT a leader in performance management and for making Tracker a part of MoDOT's daily work practices.

Missourians Are Challenged to Focus on the Road

by Kelly Jackson

For the third year in a row, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is partnering with KRCG and Joe Machens Ford to encourage drivers to pledge to drive distraction free and enter to win a 2014 Ford Focus in the annual Focus on the Road campaign.



The campaign kicked off Aug. 18 and will end Nov. 6 with the new car giveaway during a KRCG live evening broadcast on Nov. 20.

Throughout this campaign special newscasts and school visits will share victims' stories and encourage all drivers to pledge to drive distraction-free. ThinkFirst Missouri will travel with KRCG to 10 high schools and five colleges across the state to share their personal stories of distracted driving crashes to Missourian's most inexperienced, vulnerable drivers.

For more information visit saveMOLives.com or connectmidmissouri.com. Please note MoDOT employees and their families are not eligible to enter this contest.

Focus on the Road, and ARRIVE ALIVE!

Fatality Update



What's Happening



MO State Employees Charitable Campaign

September is just around the corner, and that means the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign will soon begin. I couldn't be prouder to be a part of Team MoDOT when it comes to this charitable effort. We've led all state agencies in total giving for seven straight years, and I want to challenge you to make this the eighth.

Please make every effort to participate so we can reach the goal of 100 percent of MoDOT employees contributing to the campaign. Watch for kickoff events starting in mid-September. In the meantime, you can get more information on the campaign at www.msecc.mo.gov.

Thanks for all you do and be SAFE out there!
Dave Nichols



Back to Basics – Chip Seal Operations

August's Back to Basics safety video demonstrates how to safely perform a chip seal operation. This type of operation is very complex and requires all workers to be in top form and putting safety first.

Watch the video here – <http://youtu.be/tr2YgzTXwQo>. The video is also posted on the [comprehensive safety site](#) under the “videos” icon.

Supervisors are asked to review the video with crews during morning safety discussions prior to conducting chip seal operations.

Special thanks to the crews in the Northwest and Central districts and all other involved in the making of the video.



Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's July meeting have been posted on the EAC website at [July 2014 Meeting Minutes](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.

Supervisor please print out a copy for you employees who do not have email.



Mizzou Football State Employees Discount Days

Purchase tickets online at - <http://www.mutigers.com/tickets/buytickets.html>
Click 2014 Home Single-Game Tickets
Promotional Offer Code: STATE

Tickets are subject to availability. Price listed below does not include service charges or handling fees.

For Questions Contact: Ashley Fincher at finchera@missouri.edu or 1 800-CAT PAWS.

These tickets go fast so order them ASAP!

2014 Mizzou Football – AAA Games		
Date	Game	AAA Price
Aug. 30	South Dakota St.	\$25
Sept. 13	Central Florida	\$30
Nov. 1	Kentucky*	\$45
*Conference Game		



Preventing Back Pain

Sometimes lower back pain comes out of the blue, with no apparent cause. Other times, you know you did something that brought on the pain. Everyday activities like lifting and sitting at a desk can often contribute to lower back pain. If you learn to do these things the right way, you can help avoid injuries or pain in the future.

Take a look at the Coventry Newsletter on the Central Office page to see how to help prevent back pain – [Central Office page](#).

August Retirements

Dennis H. Cooney – NW – 6 years
Mark A. Wiley – NW – 25 years
Susan D. Scantlin – KC – 23 years

Gale L. Garner – CD – 15 years
Ralph L. Mullen – SL – 25 years
Jeff M. Divine – SW – 20 years

Robert E. DeClue – SE – 25 years
Patrick A. Martens – CO – 31 years
Michael D. Frank – CO – 29 years

In Memoriam

Harold Wissman
CO – July 19
Jay Winterowd
former D6 – July 23
John Reynolds
former D5 – August 2
David Creech
former D8 – August 2
Mark Weston
CO – August 3

Wade Knight
former D4 – August 4
Frank Carroll
CO – August 4
Paul Ferber
former D6 – August 5
Norman Borders
former D2 – August 11
Yvonne Thompson
CO – August 15

Billy Shipman
former D4 – August 15
Colleen Wright
CO – August 16
Wallace Fitch
CO – August 17
George Geerlings
former D8 – August 17
Raymond Varner
CO – August 21

Connections

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Interview With a Chemist

by Patrick Wood

Those that check [MoDOT's Flickr site](#) regularly may have noticed a recent photo album showing Senior Chemist Jeff Wilson testing an asphalt sample in the lab. They say a picture can paint a thousand words, but I was still left wondering what was going on in these pictures. I reached out to Jeff to find out.



Hey Jeff, tell us a little bit about yourself. How long have you worked at MoDOT and where were you working previously?

I've been working for MoDOT and testing asphalt for about two and a half months. Before that I tested water and soil for the DNR environmental lab for over 17 years. I have a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry, which qualified me to work at with DNR testing drinking water, nondrinking water, soil, organics, air, and miscellaneous samples for lead, mercury, arsenic and about 20 other metals on fancy instruments.

What led you to be a chemist?

I like science. I like the objective nature of it and reduction of the subjective. The results that come to be tentatively accepted are based upon multiple, independent and reliable sources.



The photos of you testing asphalt in the chemical lab are very intriguing. Can you tell us what you are doing in these photos?

These pictures were taken while I was in the process of doing about a dozen tests on one asphalt sample taken from a source tank. I have to weigh out and pour specific amounts into various vessels according to AASHTO methods to analyze the sample for viscosity, specific gravity and flash point. We also test the sample using the Rolling Thin-Film Oven (RTFO) and Dynamic Shear Rheometer (DSR) tests.



Senior Chemist Jeff Wilson has to perform 12 different tests on this asphalt sample to analyze for viscosity, specific gravity and flash point.

It has been a while since I have been in a science class. Can you explain that a bit more?

The viscosity is the resistance to flow - as an example think of heavy maple syrup. Specific gravity is the ratio of the sample's mass relative to water. When we are testing for flash point, we are making sure the flammability doesn't occur at less than 500 degrees Fahrenheit, which is important for material transportation. The RTFO simulates manufacturing and placement aging. The RTFO aged asphalt binder samples are placed in stainless steel pans for 20 hours in a heated vessel pressurized to 305 psi at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. The 20 hours of heat and high pressure simulates the conditions the asphalt will endure over a seven to 10 year period on the highway. After the RTFO test, we bend the sample to measure how much it flexes and much resilience it retains at below freezing to test how it will hold up after an estimated 10 winters. The DSR tests determine the viscous and elastic behavior of asphalt binders at medium to high

temperatures.

We basically pull it, push it, bake it, broil it, freeze it, bend it, pressurize it, and age it to determine how suitable it is for our highways and roads.

To view this photo album go to: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/modot/sets/72157646445103996/>.

Multimodal Staff Tour Missouri River Ports

by *Linda Wilson Horn*

Multimodal Operations Director Michelle Teel, Administrator of Freight and Waterways Cheryl Ball and Senior Multimodal Operations Specialist Bryan Ross toured the Missouri River barge facilities with the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers on Aug. 12.

Interested stakeholders in both the private and public sectors discussed on-going projects from Glasgow to Boonville. The two-hour boat trip also included discussions on two projects that are attempting to restore shallow water habitat balanced with river navigation needs.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted a tour of barge operations along from the Missouri River. Stakeholders departed from Glasgow for the trip to Boonville.

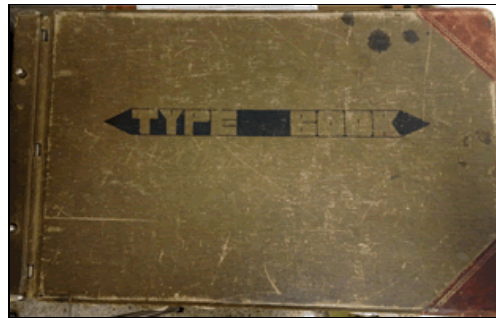


The Howard /Cooper County Port is one of 14 public ports statewide, and one of only three on the Missouri River. It's located on the north bank of the river at Boonville. Photos by Brian Ross.

Bridge Division Dusts Off 89 Year-Old Type Book

by *Patrick Wood*

At times it can be difficult to remember life without the luxury of technology. Before electronic databases, MoDOT engineers used type books to find "like structure" details to assist them in designing new projects. According to Structural Project Manager Dean Frank, finding like structure details speeds up the design and detailing process of bridge plans.

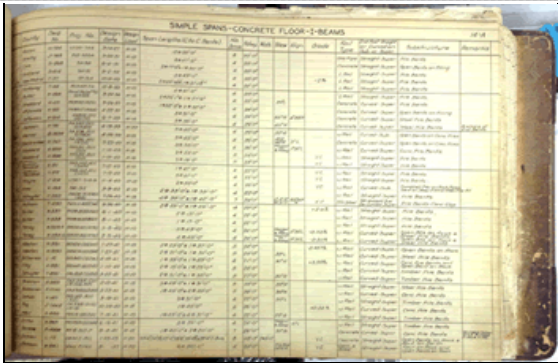


structures.”

Recently, MoDOT’s bridge division came across an old type book containing handwritten details on superstructures such as i-beams, arches, and suspension bridges dating back to 1925.

State Bridge Engineer Dennis Heckman gave the example of how a book such as the one found would be used.

“If I needed a new single span bridge with a length of 80 feet, I would use the book (like we use the database now) to see if there is a similar structure,” said Heckman. “If I find one, I can use that design for the new bridge rather than starting from scratch. I will still have to design the new bridge for a specific site but it will save time and money finding already existing like



Preventing Back Pain



Click here to read Coventry's wellness flier on how to prevent back pain, and how to manage back pain if you have it. There's great information on this two-page flier and it even has a section on how to get moving.

Check it out - [Back Pain](#).

Central Office Happenings



MEE Zone Events

CPR/First Aid Classes

Sept. 11 - 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
601 West Main St, Training Room B

Enroll using the [LMS Student Center](#)
Questions?
Amanda Henley 573-526-5617
Amanda.Henley@modot.mo.gov

Get the Facts on Parkinson's Disease

By Jen Urich, Capital Region physical therapist
Sept. 18 - 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
CO Human Resources Training Room B, 601 West Main, Jefferson City
or from anywhere via video conference

Jen Urich specializes in neurological disorders and spinal pain and has been practicing for over 42 years. She is also involved in coordination the Jefferson City Parkinson's support group.

Enroll using the [LMS Student Center](#).
For questions, or to register using video conferencing, contact:
Amanda Henley 573-526-5617
Amanda.Henley@modot.mo.gov

Missouri Voluntary Life Insurance

Aug. 28 and 29 - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Room 203, 105 West Capitol Ave.
Sept. 10 and 11 - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Human Resources Library, 601 West Main St.
No appointment needed, just stop by.

Phil Jones will talk with employees about MoVLIC, a state-sponsored life insurance and long-term benefit for you and your family. This permanent insurance is provided during your tenure with the state and paid for through payroll deductions. Special universal life and long term care coverage for you and your dependents have been contracted by the

state.

Can't make it to one of the sessions? Contact Phil Jones directly with any questions at jones.phil.0419@gmail.com or 573-230-1045.

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Customer Relations - MoDOT
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573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

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Northwest District

From The Field

Risk and Benefits Manager Diane Sipes recently visited a work zone in Harrison County and got a couple of snapshots of the crew at work. The crew pictured below works out of the Bethany maintenance facility. On this particular day, they were working on bridge deck repairs on U.S. Hwy 69 near the Iowa border.



A Couple Of Days At The Fair

Northwest District Human Resources attended a career fair sponsored by the Missouri Career Center in St. Joseph. Over 175 people came through the fair, held at a local hotel conference center, with many potential candidates talking to our MoDOT representatives throughout the day.

Another team of employees got to spend the day at a different type of fair - the Missouri State Fair. The Northwest District was the host group on the opening day of the fair on Thursday, Aug. 7. Thank you to all the volunteers that staffed the Highway Gardens Information Desk and the Adopt-A-Highway table at the Fair!



The St. Joseph branch of the Missouri Career Center hosted the career fair, located at the Holiday Inn.



The fair was well attended and many local and national companies had information tables throughout the room.



Senior Human Resources Specialist Angie Downey speaks to potential applicants during the fair.



Human Resources Manager Kendra Ezzell also staffed the information table at the fair, talking to fairgoers and directing them to our website for more information and to apply.



Northwest District State Fair Volunteers:
Front Row (l to r): Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydell, Senior Customer Service Representative Shelly Aebersold, Maintenance Worker Ashley Rhodus, Highway Designer Josshe' Palm, Senior Financial Services Specialist Judy Magruder
Back Row (l to r): Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Joseph Turner, Intermediate Maintenance Worker Adam Nold, Senior Maintenance Worker Roger Halley, Senior Maintenance Worker Caleb Gilgour.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

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Intersection Improvements for Safety



Pictured here is one of the right turn lanes that is currently under construction at Routes Z and K near Cairo in Randolph County.

right turn lanes and a new median crossover one-half mile north of Cairo. Cooperative agreements between MoDOT, the Randolph County Commission and the City of Cairo made this project possible. The next two projects will construct J-turns at Route M at Atlanta in Macon County and at Routes B and P near Clark in Randolph County. These projects are expected to be finished this year.

There are also approximately 24 other locations around the district that will receive signing upgrades, which will include crossroads signs before intersections and stop ahead signs. The signing projects will begin this year and be completed next year.

“Safety is a team effort between all of us,” Brian said. “We hope to reduce the number of accidents happening at intersections by making upgrades, but by buckling up, motorists help decrease their chance of injury or death if involved in an accident,” he added.

Improvements are and will be underway on some intersections around the Northeast District. As the result of a Road Safety Audit in 2012, turn lanes and J-turns are planned to be constructed in Atlanta, north of Macon, and Clark, south of Moberly.

Other intersections around the district are going to have signing upgrades as part of a statewide safety project.

“These types of intersection improvements have been proven to reduce the number of accidents, so we are glad we can focus on improving safety,” said Brian Untiedt, traffic operations engineer.

Currently underway is an improvement at Routes Z and K near Cairo in Randolph County. This project entails constructing

Around the District...



MO 149 near Novinger became flooded after having heavy rains the weekend of Aug. 16.

Central Office employees are busy conducting inspections on the Champ Clark Bridge near Louisiana.



Northeast District host day for the Missouri State Fair was Monday, Aug. 11. Pictured are Jonathan Bruner (traffic) and Jamie Mathes (Memphis Maint.) visiting with individuals and handing out state maps.



Tom Batenhorst - Planning Mgr., Heath Otte - Maint. Superintendent, Marisa Ellison - CR Mgr., Dawn Miller - Hannibal Maint. and Steve Dickson - Survey (not pictured) ran the Mississippi River Run in Hannibal last weekend.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

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Costly Copper Thefts

It's happened again, a thief made off with copper after breaking into a lighting control panel owned by MoDOT. The theft happened on the right side of I-70 and the Jackson Curve sometime between July 18 and Aug. 1.

Even though the amount of copper taken was small, the cost to repair it will be big. Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline said it will cost between \$30,000 to \$40,000 in labor, materials and equipment to restore the lighting panel. How often is copper stolen from MoDOT-owned utilities?

Redline says it happens multiple times every year. He recalled in 2013, when nearly a dozen aluminum pedestrian signal poles were stolen near I-70 and the Paseo. That theft cost nearly \$30,000.

The cost to repair damaged and stolen utilities comes out of the Traffic Department's budget, said



Redline. He added, "Other priorities and projects can't get done because of the thefts." Copper thefts are not only costly, they are also very dangerous. If a person doesn't know what they're doing, electrocution could be the end result.

Crimestoppers, an organization that helps prevent and solve crimes in the Kansas City area is involved in this latest case. The group is working on efforts to help create a reward for information that could lead to an arrest.

MoDOT can also use your help. If you see anything or anyone suspicious on or near a roadway utility outlet, please call the police immediately.



U.S. Highway 40 Bridge Over Blue River Closes After Failed Inspection

The four-lane U.S. Highway 40 Bridge over the Blue River was closed this month following a regularly scheduled inspection that revealed critical deterioration to the structure. The bridge closed Aug. 14. and will not reopen until a new bridge can be built, currently scheduled for March 31, 2015.

The 81-year-old bridge carries approximately 11,000 vehicles a day and had been scheduled for closure and removal in January 2015 as part of the Interstate 70 Manchester Bridge replacement project. However, MoDOT's bridge inspectors found corrosion on the aging bridge had reached a point that continued use would exceed safe conditions.

"Safety is our highest priority at MoDOT, and closure of this structure four months earlier than planned ensures that travelers are not at risk," said MoDOT District Engineer Dan Niec.

The U.S. Highway 40 Bridge was built in 1933. It is among 271 bridges in MoDOT's Kansas City Region rated as poor. All bridges throughout the United States are federally required to be inspected at least every two years. MoDOT's Kansas City District has 1,421 bridges among its nine counties.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates Completed Diverging Diamond Interchange in the Northland

The Kansas City District recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the recently completed diverging diamond interchange (DDI) at I-29 and Tiffany Springs on Aug. 20. MoDOT partnered with the KCI Corridor TIF and the Kansas City Aviation Department to fund the \$14 million project.

This is the first DDI for the Northland and the fourth for the Kansas City Region. Missouri was the first state to use this innovative interchange design and continues to lead the nation with the highest number of DDIs.

In addition to the diverging diamond interchange, this project also aligned N.W. Congress. The new alignment creates a more efficient route to the Recreation Complex, Zona Rosa shopping areas, and the business district along Barry Road which enhances the mobility and growth of this area for decades to come.

Learn more about this project on www.modot.org/KansasCity See photos from the [Ribbon Cutting on our Flickr site](#).



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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Central District

Barrel Bob Says "Thanks" to the District!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Barrel Bob sent the following letter to all the members of Central District who might have served as personal assistants, chauffeurs, and/or makeup artists to the "Big Orange Guy" over the past year:

Dear Highway Heroes and friends:

Thanks so much for chauffeuring me around this year!

I know that with my unusual size, I can be a pain in the tailgate to haul around from place to place. But alas, they don't make vehicles for guys my size, so your help in getting from place to place is greatly appreciated!

I really enjoyed visiting with Central District folks during 2014, and I especially enjoyed my trip to see all of my friends at the State Fair in Sedalia!

Speaking of which, I'd really like to send a special shout out to the hard-working people of the Central District general services and maintenance staffs for fixing me up when some ruffians at the fairgrounds decided to get a little violent with your friendly neighborhood oversized transportation mascot.

You'll never truly know how much I value the time and effort that all MoDOT workers put in every day to proudly serve Missourians!

Thank you once again for everything that you do! Keep up the good work!

*Sincerely,
Barrel Bob*



Around the District

Vienna Maintenance Supervisor Alan Frank wanted to thank everyone in the district who helped out on the chip seal operations in Maries County.

Franks said, "Everyone did a good job and did it as safe as possible. Make sure to let the crews that participated know that we could not have done this without their help."



Dr. Tim Crowley (center frame) leads a workshop with district supervisors about engagement and improving morale on Aug. 26 at the Central District office.

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Employee Charity Fund Benefits from Softball Tournament

by Shaunda White

For the third year, the Voice of St. Louis combined fun and fundraising for St. Louis employees through a softball tournament. The \$3,000 raised from the event will benefit the St. Louis districts' employee charity fund.



SWARM team takes over the 2014 SL softball championship title at the tournament held in Maplewood, MO on Aug. 24.

The employee charity fund was created by the Voice of St. Louis in 2012 and is designed to assist employees experiencing hardships. The funds also are allocated for providing scholarships to children of fallen workers.

The softball tournament consisted of three game days for the teams to compete each other with the finale championship game being held this past Sunday.

Last year the Chesterfield District TMC team won the championship title. However, this year the SWARM team proudly took over the title.

"I am always so amazed with how employees can be so passionate about giving money to a great cause and each year it only seems to get better. I cannot wait to see what next year will bring," said Voice of SL Team Leader, Keith Harangozo.

The first statewide MoDOT slowpitch softball tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6 in Jefferson City. All districts are challenged to compete. For additional information please contact Amanda Henley at 573-526-5617.

MoDOT and Safety Partners Kick for a Cause

by Shaunda White

Nearly 100 degree temperatures couldn't keep members of the St. Louis Regional Blueprint Coalition (SLRBC) from participating in a charity kickball tournament in Eureka last Saturday. Shawn Archambault, a safety partner and creator of One Curve at a Time, hosted the tournament to promote highway safety and increase awareness of dangerous curves in Jefferson County, Missouri.

One Curve at a Time is a non-profit organization which focuses on:

- Educating the public about critical road problems
- Working with local law enforcement to enhance accountability for safe driving.
- Advocating for engineering and other solutions so that problem areas along roadways and curves are addressed.



The SL Regional Blueprint Coalition team competed in the kickball tournament with more than 13 teams from the region.

The SLRBC was one of more than 13 kickball teams that registered and competed in the tournament.

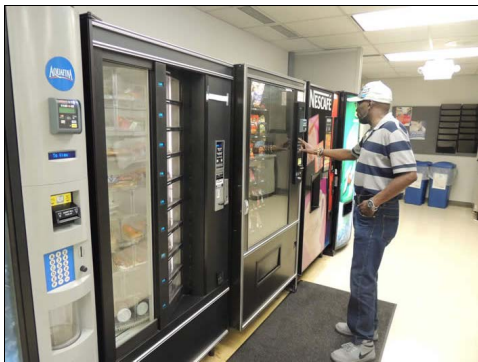
“It was a lot of fun to participate in a tournament for such a great cause. I was pleased to see the large number of people that came out to show their support and involvement in roadway safety,” said Co-Chair of SLRBC, Teresa Krenning.

For additional information on *One Curve at a Time*, please visit the website at <http://onecurveatatime.org/>

Vending Committee Supports Employees in Crisis

by Paula Fuhro

It is not a secret that sometimes employees are faced with catastrophic situations. Because of that reason, the St. Louis Employee’s Vending Committee allocates funds to assist in such emergency situations.



Each month the St. Louis District’s employee’s vending committee receives a small percentage of sales from the vending machines throughout the district. A portion of the funds are used to supply things such as plastic utensils, coffee creamers, and paper cups in the break rooms. These funds are also used to purchase and send peace lily plants to bereaved employees.

The remaining funds are allocated to assist St. Louis district employees that are faced with sudden, unexpected and critical needs such as an acute illness or natural disaster or fire to a home.

Employees can also submit a co-workers name if they are aware of a situation where help is needed. All applications are kept confidential.

Every application received is reviewed by the employee vending committee and employees can receive up to \$350 per incident.

To apply for assistance or receive additional information, please contact Paula Fuhro at 314.453.5025.

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Southwest District

Southwest District at Work



SMOOTH RIDE – Warsaw Senior Maintenance Workers Mike Guffey (left) and Lance Estes are part of a patching crew laying asphalt on Route AC near Lincoln. (Photo/David Mitchell)



SHOW OF HANDS – Central Office Local Programs Administrator Kenny Voss leads a discussion with representatives of local governments and consultants during training for the Local Public Agency (LPA) program at the Southwest District Office in Springfield. (Photo/David Mitchell)



STAYING WITHIN THE LINES – Springfield Maintenance Worker Kelly Rogers (rear) and Springfield Maintenance Crew Leader Boone Kuder (driver) stripe a section of Route 32 near El Dorado Springs. (Photo/David Mitchell)



FOR A GOOD CAUSE – Staff members of the Southwest District Office get soaked by their colleagues as part of a fundraiser for ALS. Workers at the District Office donated money to see the staff get soaked with buckets of ice water. At least \$255 was raised. (Photo/David Mitchell)

SW District Works to Improve Access to All Customers

by David Mitchell

The Southwest District is the first in the state to develop and use a specific transition plan to address transportation access issues defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The plan, adopted earlier this year, is modeled on the District’s road plan for major and minor routes.

It identifies ADA access problems on the District's routes and sets a direction for addressing them.

"We've seen the benefits from the District's major/minor road plan," said Steve Campbell, District Construction and Materials Engineer. "We thought it would work well as a model for the ADA transition plan."



Contractor crew builds ADA-compliant sidewalk at Sunshine Street (Route D) under the Route 65 overpass in Springfield. (Photo/Angela Hunt)

ADA was signed into law in 1990 and according to its website (ADA.gov), the law "guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities to participate in the mainstream of American life." The law covers, among other things, equal access to "public accommodations" including transportation features like sidewalks.

In 2007, MoDOT began the statewide process of identifying barriers to access and set a goal to correct them by 2027.

For a number of years, the District has been working on ADA issues, especially in urban areas like Springfield, Joplin and Branson. As resurfacing projects were done, features like accessible sidewalks and curbs were addressed at the same time.

During this construction season, contractor crews worked on making sidewalks and intersections ADA compliant in Springfield, Branson West, Bolivar, Ozark and Nixa.

Nine other projects are scheduled for the 2015 construction season.

"We're trying to stay ahead of the curve," said Jason Evenden, Assistant District Construction and Materials Engineer. "Luckily, these expectations from the federal government essentially mirror the expectations of Missourians."

Evenden said most of the work being done is replacing vaulted or narrow sidewalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals and striping.

The District works closely with disabled members of the community, often meeting with them at an intersection or sidewalk to see first-hand how they're able to access it.

"The goal," Evenden said, "is to open up our system to our customers and remove barriers to access."

SW District's First Design-Build Project Gets Underway on U.S. 60 in Rogersville

by Angela Eden



Innovation in design, innovation in right-of-way acquisition and innovation in improving workforce diversity are all part of the Southwest District's first Design-Build project. Starting in mid-September, Project Freeway: U.S. 60 Rogersville construction will begin – a project to upgrade U.S. 60 through Rogersville to a freeway.

District Engineer Becky Baltz said the design-build process has provided a fresh perspective on a project MoDOT has been looking at for many years.

"The final design was significantly different than the early MoDOT conceptual designs," she said. "We're getting a great value for the amount of improvements being made."

Ozark Regional Road Constructors (ORRC) group is the design-build team – a group made up of design consultant and highway construction companies. The team is proposing two interchanges – one at Greene County Farm Road 253 and one at Webster County Route B/VV at Route 60 in Rogersville, plus a series of outer roads and an overpass that will carry Farm Road 247 traffic over U.S. 60.

ORRC competed against three other similar teams and received the "best overall value" rating. ORRC was awarded the contract by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission in June.

Baltz said not only is the design innovative, but it is the first time MoDOT has included the right-of-way acquisition process in a design-build project.

"Design-Build representatives will go with (district) Right-of-Way staff to meet with property owners," she said. This will allow the design-build team to build one part of the project while they are still acquiring right-of-way on another part, allowing quicker completion of the entire project.

Also, the Design-Build team is developing a curriculum that will be shared with Logan-Rogersville High School and Missouri State University (MSU) students to show them the variety of jobs available for highway construction projects.

Project Freeway Director Sean Matlock will be a part of the outreach to the local schools.

“We will introduce them to the Design-Build process,” he said. Each month, Matlock and other members of the Design-Build team will hold a workshop at the high school and MSU.

Matlock said the sessions go “hand-in-hand” with MoDOT’s outreach to diverse groups in our communities. The sessions will open the door to the engineering profession and the auxiliary professions that go along with engineering, he said. Students will learn about highway design, highway construction and communicating with a diverse community.

Project Freeway: U.S. 60 Rogersville Begins

The project to upgrade U.S. 60 to a freeway officially begins in mid-September.

Matlock said the project will begin at the east end and progress west.

“Drivers will see lane closings on U.S. 60 at Chicory/Peck Hollow Road on the east side of Rogersville over the next couple of months,” he said.

The overall traffic plan is to minimize impacts to drivers as much as possible.

Project Freeway: U.S. 60 Rogersville Highlights

- Build two-way backage roads with one-way outer road
- Build an overpass over Route 60 at Farm Road 247
- Widen Farm Road 253 between Route 60 and Center Street
- Build an interchange at Route 60 and Farm Road 253
- Build an interchange at Route 60 and Routes B/VV
- Reconfigure intersection of Route VV and Redbud Street
- Improve the intersection of Route VV and Johnstown Drive
- Add turn lanes on Route 60 at Chicory Road and at Peck Hollow Road



The \$35 million project is scheduled for completion in December 2016.

Click the image above to view a computer animation for Project Freeway.

For more info

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Calling All SE District Teachers, High School Students

Register by Sept. 9

The Southeast District is sponsoring its 11th annual bridge building competition for high school juniors and seniors! The competition challenges students to design and construct the most efficient model bridge using limited materials-15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue.

Schools must register by Sept. 9 to compete in the competition. Contest information and registration forms have been mailed to area high schools. If a school is interested in participating and has not received the registration paperwork by Aug. 30, they are encouraged to contact MoDOT. Additionally, an online registration form is available at: www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm.

The bridge kits will be delivered to the participating schools on Oct. 6 and 7. Completed bridges will be picked up from participating schools on Nov. 3 and 4.

Bridges entered in the competition will be tested Nov. 20 at Cape West 14 Cine in Cape Girardeau. The lightest bridge to carry the greatest load will ultimately be declared the winner. Prizes will also be awarded for the most aesthetic bridge and to the winner of the electronic bridge competition.

Prizes donated by area businesses and organizations will be awarded to the top bridge building winners.



Click the image above to watch a video of the bridge testing process.

In addition, MoDOT has partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia and Southern Illinois University to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to \$10,000 in scholarships.

For more information about the bridge competition, please contact Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark at (573) 472-5292 or anita.clark@modot.mo.gov, Senior Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks at (573) 472-5294 or gretchen.hanks@modot.mo.gov, or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636). Photos and videos from prior competitions are available at www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm.

'UNITE' at the SEMO District Fair



As part of this year's SEMO District Fair in Cape Girardeau, Mo., the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety will offer distracted and drunk driving education through UNITE's Arrive Alive® Tour. The tour will visit the fair from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 and 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7.

UNITE brings health and wellness programs to high school and college campuses across the nation. Their programs are designed to heighten awareness to the dangers and consequences of drunk and distracted driving.

UNITE's Arrive Alive® program uses a high-tech simulator, impact video, and a number of other resources to educate students about the dangers of drunk driving and texting while driving. The simulator allows students to experience the potential consequences of drunk and distracted driving in a controlled environment.

The fair will be held at 410 Kiwanis Drive in Cape Girardeau, Mo., with the UNITE presentation located adjacent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Booth.

For more information about UNITE's Arrive Alive® program, please contact Patrick DeGrasse at 888.436.3394.

'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' Campaign

A statewide effort to curtail drunk driving through the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign is underway.

On Aug. 13, a press conference was held at the Cape Girardeau Police Department. The campaign stresses the importance of safe and sober driving. The Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Office DWI enforcement patrol car, the Cape Girardeau Police Department BAT (Breath Alcohol Testing) van and the Scott County Sheriff's Office DWI enforcement trailer were displayed for the public and media.

"Thirty percent of all traffic fatalities have drinking involved," said Buddy Davis from the Cape Girardeau Police Department. "This DWI Task force and equipment will go a long way to help getting those impaired drivers off the road."



A press conference to kick-off the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign was held Aug. 13 at the Cape Girardeau Police Department.

Local law enforcement agencies will work together from Aug. 15 through Sept. 1 to generate awareness of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. Checkpoints will be set-up throughout Southeast Missouri in an effort to make our roadways safer.

For more information, please visit www.savemolives.com/southeast.

Learn More About Upcoming Projects Online

Route 61 Cape Girardeau County, Route Z Wayne County

The Southeast District is currently preparing for two bridge projects that will get underway in 2015. As part of the preparation, the project teams would like to provide local travelers an opportunity to learn more information about the plans.

Information for both projects is available online at www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings.

Route 61 Cape Girardeau County



This project will include replacing the Route 61 bridge over Hughes Creek in Cape Girardeau County. The bridge is located approximately two miles north of Route CC and two and a half miles south of Route KK. The new bridge will be 26 feet wide and will better accommodate agricultural traffic than the existing structure. The project will be let in April 2015, with work expected to begin by early summer 2015. Construction will be underway for approximately 3 months. Route 61 will remain closed in the vicinity of the bridge as construction is underway. Property owners adjacent to the bridge will continue to have access to their

Route Z Wayne County



The project will include improving the bridge on Route Z over McGee Creek, located approximately three miles east of Route T in Wayne County. Construction could begin as early as spring 2015. As construction is underway, Route Z will be closed to traffic in the vicinity of the bridge. Detour routes will be signed. Click the image above for more details.

properties. A marked detour will be provided during construction.
Click the image above for more details.

For more info

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